

SENATE BILL 317

By Reeves

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 7, Part 1 and Title 68, relative to the practice of nursing with respect to emergency medical conditions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-103, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(c)

(1) Nothing in this section precludes a qualified registered nurse from determining whether a patient in or presenting to a hospital has an emergency medical condition if the determination is pursuant to:

(A) A cooperative working relationship with a physician; and

(B) Protocols jointly developed by the hospital's medical and nursing leadership and adopted by the hospital's medical staff and governing body.

(2) The protocols described in subdivision (c)(1) must include a requirement that the nurse obtain the concurrence of a physician when making a determination authorized under subdivision (c)(1).

(3) As used in this subsection (c), "qualified registered nurse" means a nurse who has been approved by the hospital governing body, based on the recommendation of hospital nursing leadership, as possessing the skills and competency to make a determination of the existence of specified emergency medical conditions.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring  
it.